

Louisiana Guide to Supports & Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Elderly and their Families Affected by Disasters

STATE AGENCIES		
Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)	Protects and promotes health and ensures access to medical, preventive, and rehabilitative services. Contact for services and assistance related to addictive disorders, aging, mental health, developmental disabilities, public health, and Medicaid.	(225) 342-9500 www.ldh.louisiana.gov LDH Center for Community Preparedness (225) 354-3500
	Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) - Serves older adults and persons with adult-onset disabilities.	(866) 758-5035 www.ldh.louisiana.gov/OAAS
	Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) - Provides a system of prevention and treatment services, assures public behavioral health services are accessible, culturally and clinically competent, and delivered in partnership with stakeholders.	(225) 342-2540 www.ldh.louisiana.gov/OBH
	Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) - Provides supports and services to people with developmental disabilities. Also provides early intervention services to families, infants and toddlers 0-36 months who have developmental delays or who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental disability (EarlySteps).	(225) 342-0095 (866) 783-5553 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/OCDD Early Steps: (866) EarlySteps (866) 327-5978 www.ldh.louisiana.gov/EarlySteps
	Protective Services - Offers protective services to investigate possible abuse, neglect and exploitation and to arrange services in those instances where it is found. The Department of Health's Adult Protective Services for adults who have disabilities age 18 and over (and emancipated minors).	(800) 898-4910 www.ldh.louisiana.gov/APS
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)	Develops and provides social service programs. During times of disaster the department provides disaster supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP formerly known as food stamps if parish/area federal declared).	(888) LAHELPU or 524-3578 www.dcfcs.louisiana.gov/preregister
	Protective Services - Children up to age 18: The Department of Children & Family Services, Office of Community Services	(225) 295-4571 (800) 855-4LA-KIDS or 452-5437 www.dcfcs.louisiana.gov (click on the link "Report Child Abuse/ Neglect")
Governor's Constituent Help Line	The toll-free number provides Louisiana citizens with helpful information.	(225) 219-7550 (844) 860-1413 www.louisiana.gov
Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA)	Serves as an information resource for people with disabilities, their families and the agencies that serve them. Facilitates access to the opportunities needed for people with disabilities to live as fully engaged participants in society. Provides information and referrals to independent living centers.	(877) 668-2722 VRS: (888) 890-6996 www.gov.louisiana.gov/page/disability-affairs Email: disability.affairs@la.gov
Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)	Administers a broad range of home and community-based services through a network of area agencies on Aging (e.g., LouisianaAnswers.com, Louisiana Senior and Long Term Care Ombudsmen).	(877) 340-9100 http://goea.louisiana.gov www.LouisianaAnswers.com www.LouisianaSenioRx.org
Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHEP)	Agency responsible for coordinating the state's efforts throughout an emergency, whether man-made or natural disaster. Helpful information on how to prepare for a weather-related event along with links to resources.	(225) 925-7500 www.gohsep.la.gov
Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ)	Provides services to youth who are at-risk or delinquent, including those with disabilities. Contact for related services.	(225) 287-7900 www.ojj.la.gov
Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC)	Offers disaster unemployment benefits to eligible applicants if parish/area federally declared.	(866) 783-5567
	Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) - Assists persons with disabilities to obtain/maintain employment and/or achieve independence by providing rehabilitation services and working cooperatively with business and other community resources.	(800) 737-2958 www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/LRS/LRS_Main.asp
EDUCATION SERVICES		

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Louisiana Department of Education (DOE)	Maintain information for displaced students/teachers and provide verification of eligibility for Special Education Services for transferring or homeless children through the Special Education Reporting System (SER) as well as the Student Information System (SIS).	(877) 453-2721 www.louisianabelieves.com http://www.louisianabelieves.com/ac academics/students-with-disabilities
Louisiana School for the Deaf	Contact for services for children who have a hearing loss.	(225) 769-8160 (888) 769-8111 (in-state toll free) www.lalsd.org
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	Contact for information related to education and support services for children who are blind or visually impaired.	(225) 757-3481 www.lsvi.org
COMMUNICATION		
Telecommunications Relay Services	Contact for telephone communication assistance for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have speech impairments.	Dial 711

ADVOCACY & SUPPORT GROUPS		
Advocacy Center	Provides the following to people with disabilities and the elderly: legally based advocacy, including information and referral; legal advice and representation; outreach; training; and systems advocacy.	(800) 960-7705 www.advocacyla.org
American Red Cross Disaster Services	Contact for assistance with immediate emergency disaster-caused needs including shelters. Also provides a register for individuals affected by disasters to post themselves as "safe and well" and for family members to search for those affected by disaster.	www.redcross.org (access local chapter with zip code) (866) GET INFO (866) 438-4636 https://safeandwell.communityos.org/ (for info on displaced persons)
Crisis Intervention Center	Provides strong emotional support, crisis counseling, or simply someone to be on the other end of the line.	(225) 924-3900 (800) 437-0303 www.brcic211.org
Families Helping Families	Provides information and referral on disability and special health care needs.	(800) 922-DIAL (3425) www.fhfgbr.org/families-helping-families-centers/
LATAN (Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network)	Contact for assistive devices and durable medical equipment for disaster survivors and for information regarding other programs and services for people with disabilities and age-related limitations who can benefit from assistive devices and daily living aids.	(225) 925-9500 (800) 270-6185 www.latan.org
Louisiana Association of United Ways	Contact for a comprehensive guide to community resources.	Dial 211 or Text (225) 650-7111 www.launitedway.org
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council	Contact this advocacy organization for information and referral to available resources, supports and services for people with disabilities.	(800) 450-8108 www.laddc.org
Louisiana State Autism Society of America	A Coalition of chapters offering information, referrals, advocacy and training for parents, teachers and service providers.	(800) 328-8476 national (337) 631-9823 Acadiana (985) 631-9823 Bayou (225) 221-7873 Greater Baton Rouge (504)464-5733 Greater New Orleans (337) 855-2068 Southwest www.lastateautism.org
Louisiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (LAFFCMH)	Provides education, support and information to families of children and adolescents with serious emotional, behavioral or mental disorders statewide. Also, serves as collaborative partner in the Family Recovery Project for community mobilization to ensure that families and children with mental health needs get the support needed.	(800) 224-4010 www.laffcmh.org
Mental Health America of Louisiana	Provides community awareness campaigns, consumer protection services and advocacy for mental health reform. Contact for consumer protection, advocacy and crisis links.	(225) 978-2177 www.mentalhealthamerica.net/mhala

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The Arc of Louisiana	Contact for advocating for the rights and full participation of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	(225) 383-1033 (866) 966-6260 www.thearca.org
Trach Mommas of Louisiana	Provides peer support, resources, education, training and information and advocacy to parents and caregivers and individuals with tracheostomy.	(504) 723-7193 (225) 200-5178 www.trachmommas.org trachmommas@gmail.com
VOAD Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster	A collaborative and diverse committee comprised of agencies that specialize in liaison services: federal assistance programs, deadlines, coordination with other volunteer organizations and donation management. Additional services include helping populations with special needs, making appropriate referrals and assisting in reduction of benefit duplication.	(504) 376-9121 www.lavoad.communityos.org
DISABILITY SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS		
ALS Association	Provides services for persons with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) through hospital-affiliated clinics, support groups for individuals and their families and assistance with the purchase/loan of prescribed medical equipment.	(225) 343-9880 (800) 891-3746 web.la.alsa.org
Alzheimer's Association	Contact for referrals to community programs and services for people exhibiting problems with memory, decision making, self-care, communication and disorientation. Available to address caregiver stress.	(800) 272-3900 24/7 HELPLINE Available in multiple languages www.alz.org/louisiana
Cerebral Palsy of Louisiana	An independent, non-profit health organization dedicated to helping Louisiana adults and children with cerebral palsy.	(800) 375-8275 www.cerebralpalsyla.com
Down's Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans	Provides information and support to all parents with children with Down Syndrome and other cognitive disabilities.	(504) 259-6201 www.dsagno.org
Epilepsy Foundation Louisiana	Information related to epilepsy research, education, advocacy, & services.	(225) 298-5499 (800) 960-0587 www.epilepsylouisiana.org http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/
Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society	Promotes research; educates; advocates for people with multiple sclerosis; and organizes a wide range of programs, including support for the newly diagnosed and those living with MS over time.	(800) 344-4867 www.nationalmssociety.org (access chapter with zip code)
Muscular Dystrophy Association	Provides services for children and adults with neuromuscular diseases through hospital-affiliated clinics; assists with the purchase/loan of prescribed medical equipment; offers support groups for individuals and their families and summer camps for children with muscular dystrophy.	(800) 572-1717 www.mda.org (access chapter with zip code) Metairie or Lafayette
United Spinal Association	Provides resources, services, and peer support to people with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D).	Brain Injury Association of Louisiana (504) 982-0685 (800) 444-6443 www.biala.org or www.spinalcord.org (to access local resources by state)
Spina Bifida of Greater New Orleans	Serves adults and children who live with the challenges of spina bifida through education, advocacy, research, and services.	(504) 737-5181 www.sbgno.org
United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)	Identifies and provides treatment to children with cerebral palsy, developmental delays, and learning disabilities; works to enhance the quality of life for the families of these children.	UCP of Baton Rouge/McMains Children's Developmental Center Baton Rouge: (225) 923-3420 www.mcmainscdc.org UPC of Greater New Orleans: (504) 461-4266 www.ucpgno.org
DISASTER SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS		
American Red Cross	Works to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. Helps people affected by disasters to receive care, shelter and hope.	(225) 291-4633 (800)229-8191 www.redcross.org